



Guaranteed Income Pilot

Executive Summary

Beginning Winter 2021, the City of Durham will conduct a 1-year Guaranteed Income pilot that provides \$500 unconditional cash transfers to program participants in Durham. This pilot seeks to determine the effectiveness of this approach to address financial instability and strengthen support for individuals returning from incarceration.

Pilot Overview

The City of Durham is exploring the promising tool of guaranteed income to address inequity. 115 system-impacted Durham residents will be randomly selected to enroll in the pilot. Through an application called Steady, participants will receive \$500 monthly transfers to their bank accounts for the duration of the pilot. Unbanked participants will be paired with an online bank and a debit card. Participants will be invited to take part in optional surveys and in-depth interviews during the course of the pilot to help the City evaluate the pilot's impact.

Background

We have chosen to focus our pilot to understand the specific benefits of providing a guaranteed income to residents with recent justice involvement. This choice reflects our ongoing commitment, as Mayor Schewel stated in his 2018 State of the City Address, "to make the City we love a City of second chances" and builds off recent reform efforts by the City to increase economic opportunity for justice involved residents.

Justice involvement comes with many collateral consequences. Individuals often struggle to find employment and stable housing. These financial hardships may also be borne by family members and may place added strain on these important relationships. We believe a guaranteed income can help ensure a successful transition home by providing a much needed additional source of income to give people time to build a new life and find a new way.

Pilot Administrator



StepUp Durham will provide participant support, retention, & data management to the pilot. Since 2015 StepUp Durham has provided employment training and placement services to more than 1,000 individuals. Created with an equity and asset-based lens, StepUp Durham primarily works with low to moderate-income people to build promising futures and decrease the cycle of poverty.

Quick Facts & Figures

Total Cost: \$800,000

Number of Participants: 115

\$500 monthly cash payments
(\$6,000 over length of pilot)

Population Focus:
Individuals returning from prison
to Durham City or County address

Key Performance Indicators:
Recidivism & Incarceration Rates
Employment Status
Consumption
Income Volatility
Physical Functioning
Mental Health
Stress & Coping
Hope & Mattering
Housing Security
Parenting

Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI)



**MAYORS FOR A
GUARANTEED
INCOME**

A guaranteed income is a monthly cash payment given directly to individuals. It is unconditional, with no strings attached and no work requirements. Guaranteed income is meant to supplement, rather than replace, the existing social safety net and can be tool for racial and gender equity. Since its establishment in June 2020, MGI has become a network of over 40 cities across the country who have created an increased support for a federal guaranteed income.

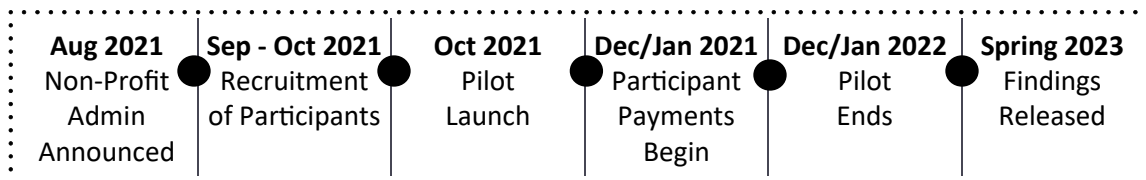
Evaluation



**CENTER FOR GUARANTEED
INCOME RESEARCH**
Social Policy & Practice
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Durham's Guaranteed Income Pilot is also part of a collective evaluation by the Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR) at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice. CGIR's role is to consolidate key learnings from the pilots taking place in MGI member cities, to address knowledge gaps in the contemporary understanding of guaranteed income's impact for Americans, and to allow the organization to layer data with anecdotal evidence in federal advocacy.

Anticipated Timeline



Committed Funds to Date

MGI Seed Grant: \$500,000
City of Durham: \$110,000
Donor Advised Fund: \$50,000
Anonymous Donors: \$20,000

Get in touch with us!

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